

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220237
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

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APPROVED BY IO/SA:EMICHAL:EM

-----014187 300902Z /10

R 300125Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 220237

FOL RPT USUN 03306 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO PARIS ROME AUG
25, 1978

QUOTE: UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 03306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL): ITEMS II AND III ON
SEPTEMBER 6 AGENDA

REFS: (A) GENEVA 12508, (B) USUN 2451 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO JUN (AKASHI) ADDITION REPORTED REFTEL
OF ITEM II TO AGENDA WAS JAPANESE PLOY AIMED AT
PREVENTING DESIGNATION OF FRENCH AS GENEVA GROUP
WORKING LANGUAGE. AKASHI SAID THIS ITEM WAS PLANNED
FOR GENEVA GROUP'S REGULAR NEW YORK SESSION, AND
JAPANESE MISSION GENEVA EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO SWITCH
IT TO SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING WHEN NEW YORK SESSION
CANCELLED. AKASHI, SPEAKING WITHOUT BENEFIT OF
GUIDANCE, THOUGHT JAPANESE WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY
WITH GENEVA'S PROPOSAL TO MAKE THIS ITEM
OCCASION FOR GENEVA GROUP TO DISCUSS ADDITION OF ARABIC
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IN WHO. COMMENT: AT THE 32ND UNGA JAPAN SPOKE AGAINST
A US PROPOSAL, ADVANCED DURING DEBATE ON ARABIC
LANGUAGE SERVICES, IN FIFTH COMMITTEE (SUBSEQUENTLY
WITHDRAWN) TO REQUEST THE SYG TO STUDY ORGANIZATIONAL
AND FUNCTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF IMPROVEMENT OF
LANGUAGE SERVICES AND ALTERNATE MEANS OF DEFRAYING
COSTS, INCLUDING A "USER-PAY" SYSTEM, AND TO REPORT

TO THE 33RD GA. JAPAN DID, HOWEVER, SUPPORT DISCUSSING LANGUAGE SERVICES AT THE 33RD GA. AS GENEVA IS WELL AWARE, JAPAN'S HEAVY DEPENDENCE UPON MIDDLE EASTERN OIL INDUCES SOME DIFFIDENCE INTO ITS TREATMENT OF ISSUES WHERE ARAB INTERESTS OR ARAB FEELINGS ARE GREAT. END COMMENT

2. AKASHI SAID JAPAN ALSO HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED PROPOSE ITEM III FOR NEW YORK GENEVA GROUP SESSION, BUT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY JAPANESE MISSION GENEVA PROPOSED IT FOR SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING. AKASHI NOTED THAT JAPAN IS ATTRACTED TO CANADIAN IDEA OF MERGING ILO AND UN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT ILO ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL DECISION ON GENEVA GENERAL SERVICE SALARY CASE. AKASHI SPECULATED ITEM III MIGHT OCCASION DISCUSSION OF MERGER AS WELL AS ALL ROUND REPROACH OF ILO TRIBUNAL FOR DECISION ON GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES. AKASHI REAFFIRMED FULL, FIRM JAPANESE SUPPORT OF ICSC ON GENEVA GENERAL SERVICE SALARIES.

3. COMMENT: IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN LINE - WITH ABORTIVE US PROPOSAL AT 32ND GA FOR USDEL TO GENEVA GROUP MEETING TO ZERO IN ON PARAGRAPHS 82-110 OF JIU REPORT. THESE PASSAGES PROVIDE SOME FAIRLY TELLING EVIDENCE OF NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR EFFECTIVENESS COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF ADDING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES OF ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY. COUNTRIES THAT ARE MOST ABLE TO AFFORD A USER PAY FORMULA (E.G. GERMANY AND JAPAN) ALSO HAVE A HIGH STAKE IN REDUCING TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE, IF NOT ELIMINATING, NEGATIVE FACTORS IN OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. FRG AND GOJ ALSO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR VIEWS BY AUDIENCES THEY ARE TRYING TO REACH. PARAGRAPHS 89, 93, 94, 98, 106, 107, 109 AND 110 GIVE A USEFUL DISCUSSION OF OBSTACLES TO REACHING SUCH OBJECTIVES CAUSED BY LANGUAGE PROLIFERATION. FINDINGS OF THESE PASSAGES CAN BE USED TO IMPOSE BURDEN OF PROOF UPON ADVOCATES OF NEW UN LANGUAGES, WITHOUT SEEMING TO JUXTAPOSE PRICE TAGS AND DEEPLY HELD CULTURAL VALUES. THIS APPROACH MAY IMPROVE CHANCES FOR SANE DISCUSSION OF A HIGHLY EMOTIONAL ISSUE. END COMMENT YOUNG UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE220237
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: K. B. ANDERSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-1243
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978087/aaaaafyw.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6bc8264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 125, 78 USUN NEW YORK 2451
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1757170
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENEVA GROUP (GENERAL): ITEMS II AND III ON SEPTEMBER 6 AGENDA
TAGS: AORG
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6bc8264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014